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*Okay to enter* (JSB)  
4/1/04

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/696,178      Group Art Unit : 3737  
Applicants : K. FURUSAWA et al.      Examiner : John Sanders  
Filed : October 26, 2000  
Title : ENDOSCOPE SYSTEM

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

**RECEIVED**

MAR 19 2004

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 83700

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Final Official Action of December 17, 2003, in which a three-month shortened statutory period for response was set to expire on March 17, 2004, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the herein contained amendments and remarks.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this Response.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this Response.